

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for the purification of ~~inorganic salt~~ sodium chloride comprising at least one organic material, ~~which~~ wherein said process comprises ~~chemically treating and/or~~ granulating a powdered ~~inorganic salt~~ sodium chloride comprising at least one organic material to obtain a ~~chemically treated and/or~~ granulated sodium chloride, inorganic salt,

and then heat treating ~~the chemically treated and/or~~ said granulated sodium chloride,
inorganic salt,

wherein the average equivalent sphere diameter of said granulated sodium chloride ~~the granulated inorganic salt comprising at least one organic material~~ is from 1 to 100 mm; ~~and wherein the chemical treatment enhances the efficiency of the removal of the organic material during the heat treating step and/or acts as a binder for the powdered inorganic salt comprising at least one organic material during the granulating step.~~

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The process according to Claim 1, wherein ~~the powdered inorganic salt comprising at least one organic material is granulated and~~ the density of ~~the~~ said granulated sodium chloride ~~inorganic salt~~ is not lower than 70% of the true density of ~~inorganic salt~~ the sodium chloride in said ~~inorganic salt~~ sodium chloride comprising at least one organic material.

Claim 3 (Canceled):

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The process according to Claim 1, wherein ~~the powdered inorganic salt comprising at least one organic material is granulated and the~~ crushing strength of said ~~the granulated sodium chloride inorganic salt~~ is not lower than 5 kg.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the heat treatment temperature is not lower than 400°C.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the heat treatment temperature is not higher than the melting point of the sodium chloride ~~inorganic salt~~ in said ~~inorganic salt~~ sodium chloride comprising at least one organic material.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the heat treatment comprises the use of a rotary kiln.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the heat treatment is carried out on a moving bed.

Claims 9-10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The process according to Claim 1, ~~Claim 10~~, wherein said sodium chloride comprises ethylenamine produced by a dichloroethane process for the preparation of ethylenamine which comprises reacting dichloroethane with ammonia to produce an ethylenamine compound.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The process according to Claim 1, ~~Claim 10~~, wherein said sodium chloride is produced as a by-product of a process for the production of epichlorohydrin.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The process according to Claim 1, ~~wherein the powdered inorganic salt comprising at least one organic material is granulated, and the process further comprising after said heat-treating: comprises~~

dissolving the said granulated sodium chloride and ~~heat-treated inorganic salt~~ in water to form a solution A, and then filtering said solution A.

Claim 14 (Canceled):

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The process according to Claim 1, ~~wherein the further comprising chemically-treating said powdered inorganic salt sodium chloride comprising at least one organic material to obtain a chemically-treated and granulated sodium chloride, is chemically-treated and~~

wherein said chemical treatment comprises mixing said powdered ~~inorganic salt sodium chloride~~ comprising at least one organic material with at least one alkali; or and/or at least one oxidizing agent; or at least one alkali and at least one oxidizing agent to form a mixture.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The process according to Claim 15, wherein said powdered sodium chloride comprising at least one organic material is mixed with at least one alkali, and wherein said alkali comprises at least one hydroxide of alkaline metal, ~~and/or~~ at least one hydroxide of alkaline earth metal, or mixtures thereof.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 16, wherein said alkali is at least one selected from the group consisting of lithium hydroxide, sodium hydroxide and potassium hydroxide.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 15, wherein the heat treatment temperature is not lower than 200°C.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The process according to Claim 15, wherein the heat treatment temperature is not higher than the melting point of the ~~inorganic salt~~ sodium chloride in said ~~inorganic salt~~ sodium chloride comprising at least one organic material.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The process according to Claim 15, wherein ~~the~~ said heat treatment comprises the use of a rotary kiln.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The process according to Claim 15, wherein ~~the~~ said heat treatment is carried out on a fluidized bed.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The process according to Claim 15, wherein ~~the~~ said heat treatment is carried out on a moving bed.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): The process according to Claim 15, ~~further comprising granulating said mixture.~~ wherein said chemically-treating is carried out before said granulating.

Claims 24-25 (Canceled).

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): The process according to Claim 15, ~~Claim 25~~, wherein said sodium chloride comprises ethylenamine produced by a dichloroethane process for the preparation of ethylenamine which comprises reacting dichloroethane with ammonia to produce an ethylenamine compound.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): The process according to Claim 15, ~~Claim 25~~, wherein said sodium chloride is produced as a by-product of a process for the production of epichlorohydrin.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): The process according to Claim 15, further comprising after said heat treating
dissolving the said chemically-treated and granulated sodium chloride ~~heat-treated inorganic salt~~ in water to form a solution B, and then filtering said solution B.

Claims 29-30 (Canceled).

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): The process according to Claim 1, wherein the average equivalent sphere diameter of ~~the said~~ said granulated sodium chloride ~~inorganic salt comprising at least one organic material~~ is from 18 mm to 90 mm.